

**HEDYOTIS POOLEANA (RUBIACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM THE DEAD HORSE MOUNTAINS, TRANS-PECOS TEXAS**

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ABSTRACT

A new mat-forming species, *Hedyotis pooleana* B.L. Turner, is described and photographed from the Dead Horse Mts. of trans-Pecos Texas (Brewster Co.). It is closely related to the Mexican species *H. mullerae* Fosberg but differs from the latter in having lanceolate, markedly thickened leaves with glabrous surfaces and apiculate apices.

KEY WORDS: Rubiaceae, *Hedyotis*, Texas, systematics

Routine identification of Texas (and Mexican) plants has revealed the following novelty.

**HEDYOTIS POOLEANA** B.L. Turner, *spec. nov.* Figure 1. TYPE: U.S.A. Texas: Brewster Co., Brushy Canyon Preserve (The Nature Conservancy of Texas) Dead Horse Mts. (Sierra del Caballo Muerto); ca. 0.7 mi SW of adobe house on Brugh Canyon divide (29° 27' N, 102° 58' W), 4900 ft., North - to East-facing, vertical, limestone cliff face, 1 May 1987, Jackie Poole 2942 (HOLOTYPE: TEX!).

Similis *Hedyotis mullerae* Fosberg sed differt foliis valde crassis, lanceolatis, glabris utrinque, costatissimis infra, apicibus apiculatis.



Figure 1. Photograph of *Hedyotis pooleana* at the type locality (courtesy J. Poole).

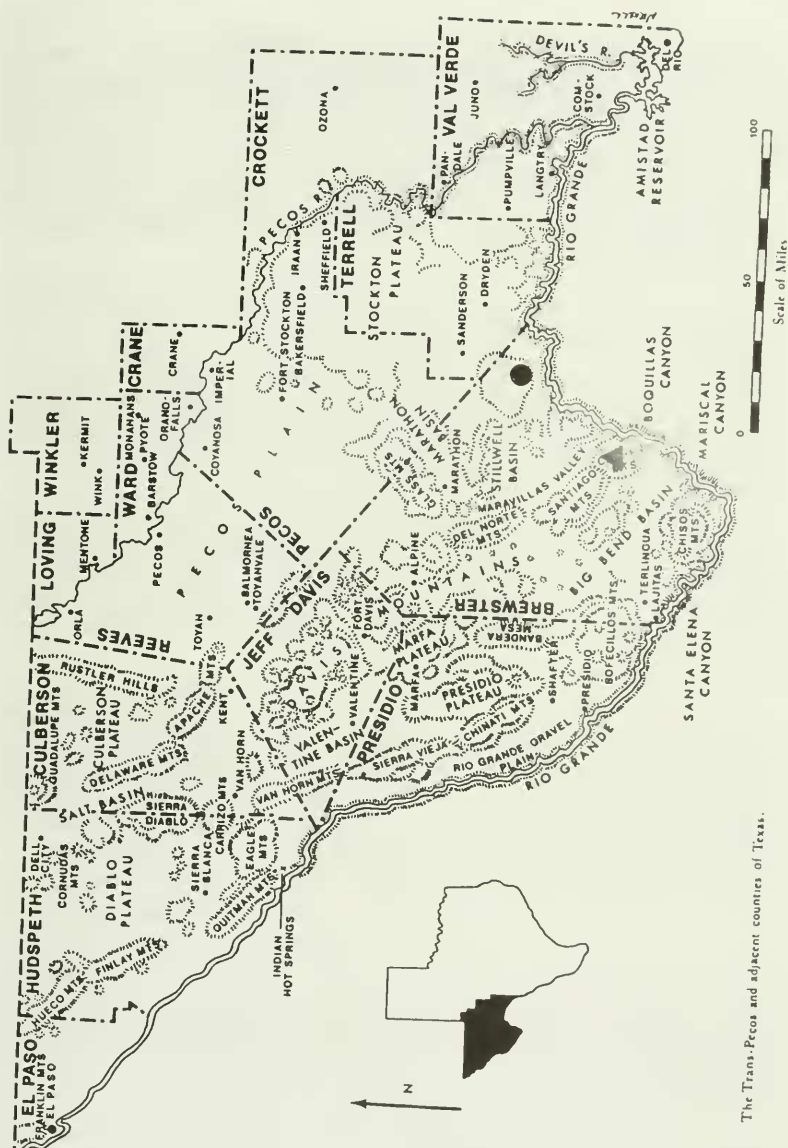


Figure 2. Map showing locations of the localized endemics, *Hedyotis butterwickiae* (circle) and *H. pooleana* (triangle).

Mat-forming perennial herbs 2-3 cm high. Stems glabrous and much-branched from the base, the internodes mostly 1-3 mm long. Stipules lanceolate, 1-2 mm long. Midstem leaves thick, lanceolate, 5-7 mm long, 1.0-1.4 mm wide, strongly 1-nerved, glabrous except for minutely hispidulous margins, the apices decidedly apiculate. Flowering branches not much extending beyond the leaves, if at all. Pedicels 0.1-0.4 mm long. Calyces ca. 2 mm long, the 4 lobes lanceolate, ca. 1 mm long. Corollas 2.5-3.0 mm long, white, the 4 lobes lanceolate, ca. 2 mm long, hispidulous externally at the apices, moderately pilose within. Anthers included within the tube. Styles excurrent for ca. 2 mm. Capsules orbicular ca. 1 mm high, dehiscent loculicidally across the disk. Seeds not available.

*Hedyotis pooleana* much resembles *H. mullerae* Fosberg of northcentral México but the leaves are markedly different, as noted in the above diagnosis. When first collected Ms. Jackie Poole (conservation biologist and one-time curator at LL, TEX) thought the plant might be *H. mullerae*, which it superficially resembles. Comparisons of her material with ten or more collections of the latter at LL, TEX has shown the distinctiveness of the taxon proposed here. Terrell (1991: Phytologia 71:212-243.) provided an overview of the North American species of *Hedyotis* and related genera, but did not have material of the present species.

Jackie Poole collected the species again at the type locality on 25 May 1985 (*Poole 2527* [SRSC,TEX]). She also informed me that she observed the species on 27 Nov 1987 along the same ridge at about 4840 ft elevation within the boundary of the Big Bend National Park, about a mile or so from the type locality. The Dead Horse Mountains is an extension of the loftier Sierra del Carmen range across the Rio Grande in Coahuila, México. Wells (1965: Southwestern Naturalist 10:256-260.) has provided a vegetational account of this Texas extension.

Northcentral México and closely adjacent trans-Pecos Texas harbor a large array of endemic taxa. This is especially so for *Hedyotis* for the present novelty is apparently restricted to the Dead Horse Mountains, not too far removed from the recently described *Hedyotis butterwickiae* Terrell, the two occurring in close proximity (Figure 2). I can't help but add that both of the individuals for which these two taxa were named, obtained advanced degrees under my direction years ago now, and both are still ardent field workers. Bless such students!

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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